

**Remarks**

This amendment is submitted to be fully responsive to the Official Action mailed March 14, 2008. It is further submitted that this amendment is timely filed within the three-month shortened-statutory period for reply as extended by the two-month extension of time filed herewith. An Information Disclosure Statement is also being concurrently filed with this Amendment. The Examiner is requested to indicate consideration of the references cited therein by returning an initialed copy with the next Official Action. Should any additional fees be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Kagan Binder Deposit Account No. 50-1775 and thereafter notify us of the same. Reconsideration of all outstanding grounds of the rejection and allowance of the subject application are believed in order and respectfully requested.

As set forth above, please amend claims 1, 2, 22, 32, 44, and 47 and cancel claims 43, 45, and 46 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Also, please enter new claims 48-53.

Claims 1, 2, 10, 22, 28, 32-37, 39, and 43-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WIPO document No. WO/19991 to Husnu, US Patent No. 759,382 to Klugh, and U.S. Patent No. 1,245,447 to Felenchak. The rejection is traversed because none of the prior art, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches, or otherwise suggests, a removable panel as claimed that spans a length proximal to an edge and that comprises a return address region, a postage region, and a central region therebetween.

Independent claim 1, in pertinent part and with emphasis added, recites:

a first removable panel adjacent to an edge of the enclosure and extending substantially across the length of the enclosure proximal to the edge of the enclosure, the first removable panel including *a return address region* proximal to a first end of the first removable panel, *a postage region* proximal to a second end of the first removable panel and opposite the first end, and *a central region* positioned between the return address region and the postage region;

Advantageously, envelopes in accordance with the present invention provide an extensive removable panel having a return address region, postage region, and a central

region therebetween. Removing the removable panel allows the return address, the postage, and the intervening central area between them (which often includes marks applied by the Post Office from an initial mailing) to be removed, thereby refreshing the top edge of the envelope for a subsequent mailing. With the claimed design, the return address, the postage region, and the central region can be easily refreshed in a streamlined way. The ability to deal with these three regions on the top edge provides the claimed envelopes with capabilities totally lacking in the cited art.

Husnu does not disclose or teach a removable panel comprising an address region, a postage region, and a central region as recited in claim 1. Husnu discloses a detachable address region 30 (see Figure 3) and a non-detachable postage area 29 (see Figure 1) distinct from the address region 30. The address region 30 is positioned in the conventional location for an outgoing address and there is no disclosure or teaching in Husnu for the address region 30 to include a removable postage region as claimed.

Neither of Klugh and Felenchak cure the deficiency of the Husnu reference regarding a removable panel comprising an address region, a postage region, and a central region as recited in claim 1. Klugh discloses a removable address sheet C and a distinct removable postage sheet D and not a removable panel having an address region, a postage region, and a central region as recited in claim 1. Felenchak discloses a removable address label 8 for the outgoing address and a distinct removable address label 12 for the return address and not a removable panel having an address region, a postage region, and a central region as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the combination of Husnu with either of Klugh and Felenchak does not render claim 1 unpatentable as neither combination provides the claimed removable panel comprising an address region, a postage region, and a central region. Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection and allowance of claim 1 is therefore respectfully requested.

Independent claim 22, in pertinent part as presently amended and with emphasis added, recites:

a first panel that forms a front face of an envelope, the first panel having *a first portion displaying a first address and a postage mark, the first portion being at least partially removable from the first panel to remove at least one of the first address and postage mark* thereby defining a first open region in the first panel and a

*second portion that displays a second address, the second portion being at least partially removable from the first panel thereby defining a second open region in the first panel;*

It is submitted that Husnu does not disclose or teach a panel having a removable first portion displaying both a first address and a postage mark and then additionally a removable second portion displaying a second address as recited in amended claim 22. As noted above, Husnu discloses a detachable address region 30 and a non-detachable postage area 29 distinct from the address region 30. Neither of Klugh and Felenchak cure the deficiency of the Husnu reference regarding a panel having a removable first portion displaying a first address and a postage mark and a removable second portion displaying a second address as recited in amended claim 22. Klugh discloses a removable address sheet C and a distinct removable postage sheet D. Neither of sheets C and D have both an address and a postage mark as claimed. Felenchak discloses a removable address label 8 for the outgoing address, a distinct removable address label 12 for the return address and a distinct non-removable postage mark. Felenchak does not disclose or teach a panel having a removable portion having an address and a postage mark. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the combination of Husnu with either of Klugh and Felenchak does not render claim 22 unpatentable. Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection and allowance of claim 22 is therefore requested.

Independent claim 32, in pertinent part and with emphasis added, recites:

*an envelope body defining an enclosure and comprising a panel having a tear-away portion, the tear-away portion having a first removable portion for displaying a first address and a second removable portion displaying a postage mark, wherein the first and second portions of the tear-away portion are separable from each other along a line of weakness;*

Independent claim 39, in pertinent part and with emphasis added, recites:

an envelope body comprising a panel having a tear-away portion for displaying a first address and a postage mark, the tear-away portion being partially removable from the first panel to remove one of the first address and postage mark separately from the other;

It is submitted that Husnu does not disclose or teach a tear-away portion, wherein the first and second portions of the tear-away portion are separable from each other along a line of weakness as recited in amended claim 32 or a tear-away portion displaying a first address and a postage mark, the tear-away portion being partially removable from the first panel to remove one of the first address and postage mark separately from the other as recited in amended claim 39. As noted above, Husnu discloses a detachable address region 30 and a non-detachable postage area 29 distinct from the address region 30 and not a tear-away portion being partially removable from the first panel to remove one of the first address and postage mark separately from the other. Neither of Klugh and Felenchak cure the deficiency of the Husnu reference regarding a tear-away portion being partially removable from the first panel to remove one of the first address and postage mark separately from the other as recited in amended claims 32 and 39. Klugh discloses a removable address sheet C and a distinct removable postage sheet D not a tear-away portion for displaying a first address and a postage mark as claimed. Felenchak discloses a removable address label 8 for the outgoing address, a distinct removable address label 12 for the return address and a distinct non-removable postage mark. Felenchak does not disclose or teach a tear-away portion for displaying a first address and a postage mark, the tear-away portion being partially removable from the first panel to remove one of the first address and postage mark separately from the other as claimed. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the combination of Husnu with either of Klugh and Felenchak does not render claims 32 and 39 unpatentable. Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection and allowance of claims 32 and 39 is therefore requested.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims and the present application are now in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, at the Examiner's convenience, should the Examiner have any questions regarding this communication or the present patent application.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 12AUGUST 2008

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KJH/43167